



**REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET
BOARD**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Friday 17 September 2021**

VIA TEAMS

**ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES TO BE SWITCHED TO SILENT FOR THE
DURATION OF THE MEETING**

PART 1

1. Appointment of Chairperson
2. Welcome and Roll Call
3. Chair Announcements
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 3 - 6*)
6. Extension of the current service provided by the Police and Crime Commissioners Office for the Rapid Access Prescribing Service - Western Bay Area Planning Board (*Pages 7 - 12*)
7. Lease of 5-6 London Road, Neath to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (*Pages 13 - 50*)
8. Rural Development Plan 2014 - 2020 (*Pages 51 - 68*)
9. Forward Work Programme 2021/2022 (*Pages 69 - 70*)
10. Urgent Items

Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290 (as amended).

K.Jones
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

10 September 2021

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board
Members:

Councillors. L.Jones and A.Wingrave

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

30 JULY 2021

REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: L.Jones and A.Wingrave (Chairperson)

Officers in Attendance:

L.Beynon, M.Thomas, C.Davies and T.Davies

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor A.Wingrave be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Decision:

That the minutes of the 25 June 2021, be approved.

3. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TRADING STANDARDS – FOOD AND FEED LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW 2020-2021 AND FOOD AND FEED SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2021-2022**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

4. **TENANT FEE DELEGATIONS**

Decisions:

That having given due regard to the circulated Integrated Impact Assessment, approval be granted for the delegation arrangements in respect of the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service which are set out in version 14.12.18 of the authority's Constitution [i.e. in Part 3 – Officer of the Council Delegation Arrangements: {c} Environmental Health and Trading Standards - Schedule 1] be amended as follows:

1. To add the Renting of Homes (Fees etc.) (Wales) Act 2019 to the list of legislation [set out in the above referred to Schedule 1] delegated to the Director of Environment and Regeneration, the Head of Planning and Public Protection and the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager.
2. To delegate to those officers in [1] above the authority to authorise individual competent and qualified officers to act under that legislation.
3. To delegate to those officers in [1] above the authority to institute legal proceedings under the provisions contained in the Renting of Homes (Fees etc.) (Wales) Act 2019 in conjunction with the Head of Legal Services [including the signing of any cautions in accordance with Home Office Guidelines] and, where an alleged offender is being held in custody in relation to an offence, to institute proceedings by way of charge.
4. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to seek amendment of the Constitution by the Council in due course: in order to reflect the above changes to the authority's delegation arrangements.
5. That Members authorise Cardiff City Council, as the Single Licensing Authority for Wales (Rent Smart Wales), to exercise any function of an enforcement authority, in relation to Neath Port Talbot Council's area, for the purposes of the Renting Homes (Fees etc.) (Wales) Act 2019, including (but without limitation) taking enforcement activity and bringing criminal proceedings pursuant to section 19 of that Act.

Reason for Decisions:

To enable the new legislation to be implemented quickly and efficiently, and to ensure that enforcement powers are also delegated to Rent Smart Wales, with whom the department work in partnership, for the enforcement of this legislation.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

5. **NPT BEE FRIENDLY SCHEME**

Decision:

That having given due regard to the circulated Integrated Impact Assessment, the NPT Bee Friendly scheme as detailed in Appendix 2 of the circulated report be adopted, and changes in management to increase the extent of wildflower grasslands be approved and published on the Council's website.

Reason for Decision:

The recommendations are needed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF NEATH PORT TALBOT REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) 2021-2036**

Following discussion at the Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet Members agreed to add the wording in *italics* to decision 1, below.

Decisions:

That having given due regard to the circulated Integrated Impact Assessment, the following be approved:

1. The Replacement Local Development Plan Consultation Draft Delivery Agreement, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the circulated report, *subject to the inclusion of the feedback from members in the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee in relation to community involvement*, be approved.
2. That the Draft ISA Scoping Report as detailed in Appendix 3 of the circulated report, be approved.
3. That the publication and consultation procedures as set out in the circulated report be implemented.

Reasons for Decisions:

To ensure compliance with Section 63 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015; the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015); the Equality Act (2010); the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015; Planning Policy Wales 11 (2021) and the Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020), as well as to authorise the consultation exercises to ensure that the Replacement Local Development Plan final DA and the ISA Scoping Report are robust and the procedures outlined are fully justified.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item will be subject to external consultation.

7. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/2022**

Decision:

That the Forward Work Programme 2021/2022 be noted.

CHAIRPERSON

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD 17th September 2021

Report of the Head of Education Development - Mr Christopher Millis

Matter for information

Wards Affected:

All wards.

Extension of the current service provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office for the Rapid Access Prescribing Service - Western Bay Area Planning Board

Purpose of the Report

1. For information regarding the extension of the existing grant agreement in respect the Rapid Access Prescribing Service in the Western Bay region.
2. To advise that the Head Of Education Development has entered into another grant agreement with South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner to continue with the Rapid Access Prescribing Service until 30th September 2021.

Executive Summary

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council ("the Council") acts as the banker for the Western Bay Area Planning Board, in respect of Welsh Government Substance Misuse Action Fund money (SMAF) and partner contributions from Swansea and NPT Councils.

The Area Planning Board (APB) was set up in 2010, but is not a legal entity in its own right, so is not able to enter into contractual arrangements with Service Providers or award grant funding in its own right. Therefore this report advises that the Head of Education Development has entered into a new grant agreement with the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner to continue with the existing Rapid Access Prescribing Service to end on the 30th September 2021.

In February 2020 Karen Jones (then Assistant Chief Executive NPT CBC and Chair of the APB) utilised her delegated powers to enter into a grant agreement with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to utilise the grant monies for the purpose of altering their current contract with G4s under the Dyfodol Service to provide a new rapid access prescribing service for the APB. This was in response to actions identified by the Joint PSB Critical Incident Group that related to increasing the amount of prescribing places for individuals with substance use issues in the region. The service was established and started taking referrals in March 2020.

Background

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council ("the Council") acts as the banker for the Western Bay Area Planning Board, in respect of Welsh Government Substance Misuse Action Fund money (SMAF) and partner contributions from Swansea and NPT Councils.

The Western Bay APB invited substance misuse providers to submit proposals in respect of SMAF in accordance with its strategic priorities. The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office via their Dyfodol service responded with the proposal to provide capacity for rapid access clinical Opiate Substitute Treatment (OST) for up to 30 individuals identified by the Western Bay Engagement team and Swan project in response to current Critical Incident group concerns.

The service commenced in March 2020 and despite a delay of 2 months (due to the start of the Covid 19 lockdown) has been working with

individuals requiring OST who are leading chaotic lifestyles and identified as high risk by Engagement Team and Swan project. These individuals have been able to gain a rapid clinical assessment and access to clinical treatment with a view to stabilising their use and preparing them for longer term referrals to other prescribing services that are available.

The current grant agreement between the Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office expired on 31st March 2021. Due to the delay in commencing the service G4s was able to carry forward some funding from the start of the project to run the project to the 30th June 2021.

To ensure continuity of service for those who are currently being prescribed and for those who are waiting the APB agreed to utilise some of its 21/22 SMAF money to extend the project. There is sufficient SMAF money to pay for an additional 3 months from July - September 2021. It should be noted that an alternative source of funding has been secured via the Home Office to ensure that the project can run for another full year from November to take it to March 2022 (this funding has been sourced by the PCC directly).

The APB has been assured that the project has been delivering to a high standard and all the prescribing places are being utilised. The service has been monitored by the APB Team via its established contract monitoring processes and the service has been picking up service users who have suffered overdoses and have been reported to the APB Drug Poisoning Task Force. The Rapid Access Prescribing Service has become part of the Newid Integrated Substance Misuse Service in Western Bay and complements existing provision by plugging identified gaps in treatment. A review of the service that has been delivered over the past year.

It should also be noted that funding for the medication that the service prescribes (Buvidal) has been secured directly from Welsh Government via its Covid Winter Funding Scheme.

As the Area Planning Board is not a legal entity in its own right, it is not able to enter into contractual arrangements with Service Providers or grant agreements. Work is currently ongoing to agree a Financial and Risk Sharing Agreement and a draft document has been provided to APB statutory authorities for comment. Once this has been agreed NPT CBC

can then take the lead on any new contracts or changes to existing contracts without bearing all the risk.

It had been hoped that the Financial and Risk Sharing Agreement would be in place to enable the decision of the APB in respect of the contract to be enacted.

It is acknowledged that once a grant is awarded, there is less control over the provider, but officers are satisfied that G4s can continue to utilise the grant monies in an effective way across the region as it has been doing. This arrangement has worked well over the past year.

Therefore this report, advises that the Head of Education Development has entered into another grant agreement with the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner to continue with the current Rapid Access Service provided by G4s for 3 months covering the period July - September 2021.

The Area Planning Board is currently embarking on a Transformation Project, which will deliver a new fully integrated public health model for substance misuse services across the region. This extension will fall outside the timeline of this project but will lead up to its implementation.

Financial Impact

The proposal contained in this report will utilise currently unallocated SMAF funding and will ensure that available resources in the area are used to meet the APB's strategic priorities. The operational lead for the APB will continue to liaise closely with colleagues in finance to ensure that the contract is affordable within budgetary constraints of the SMAF grant.

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information purposes.

Workforce Impacts

The proposals contained in this report have no Council workforce implications.

Legal Impacts

The SMAF monies (the Fund) are subject to Welsh Government grant conditions, which the Council is obliged to comply with. Failure to comply with the grant conditions would put the Council at risk of claw back of the Fund by Welsh Government. It is intended that the process of the award of the Fund via a grant to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office by the Council will be in line with the grant conditions.

The allocation of the Fund will require a grant agreement which will require the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office to comply with the grant conditions. The grant agreement will entail the recipient only being permitted to use the grant monies for the specific purposes for which they are made available by the Council. The Council will have the right to claw back the monies if they are not used or if misused.

Grants are outside of the procurement regime and are excluded from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules under rule 7.1.21.

Risk Management

The Council could potentially be exposed to challenge from aggrieved providers who have not had an opportunity to bid for a contract such as this. They may wish to challenge this by Judicial Review of the Council's decision.

Any challenge could involve both the cancellation of current arrangements and/or the threat of a financial penalty determined by the Courts.

It would be contended that the risk of this is considered to be low due to the absence of other possible providers on the market and the intention to carry out a wider tender exercise in the next 2 years. In any case any risk is deemed to be outweighed by the need to continue to provide support to the service users, as they have specific needs that have to be met.

The Council's defence of any such challenge would be strong as the constitution allows for the action proposed.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

For information

Appendices

None

List of Background Papers

None

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

Report of the Head of Education Development – Mr Chris Millis

17 September 2021

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All

Lease of 5-6 London Road, Neath to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek authority for the Head of Property & Regeneration to negotiate a new lease of 5-6 London Road Neath on terms and conditions similar to that agreed under the previous lease, and so enable the continued delivery of substance misuse intervention services.

Executive Summary

2. Substance Misuse Capital funding was utilised for the purchase and renovation of 5-6 London Road, Neath, on the condition that it be used to deliver substance misuse intervention services. A range of substance misuse services are currently delivered from the property.

3. The property has been leased to G4S Care & Justice Services UK (G4S) for a term of 6 years at a peppercorn rent, which expired 31st March 2017 since when the lease has been held over. The lease situation needs to be regularised.
4. G4S are commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to deliver offender interventions from the property.
5. The property has now become more multi-use and is being used by G4S to deliver services that are commissioned by the Area Planning Board (using Substance Misuse Action Fund) as well as those commissioned by the PCC.
6. Consequently, the PCC has advised that it would be more pertinent for them to hold the lease from this time.
7. Authorisation is therefore sought for the Head of Property & Regeneration to negotiate a new lease of the premises with the PCC's office, on terms and conditions similar to those under the previous lease. This will enable the continued delivery of substance misuse intervention services at this property.
8. There are concerns regarding Anti-social behaviour in Neath Town centre, exacerbated by substance misuse. It is not known whether the perpetrators of that ASB use the services at London Road.
9. There could be community concerns regarding the continued use of this building, given the issues identified above
10. It is important to note that providing treatment and support is key in reducing offending, reoffending and anti-social behaviour more generally. The focus of services provided at London Road is on stabilising individuals who present as chaotic and likely to cause harm to the community and themselves
11. The value of Drug Intervention Programmes in terms of reducing harms to those who misuse substances, their families and to the wider community is well established/evidenced.

Background

12. Welsh Government's Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF Capital) was utilised by the Authority to renovate and refurbish 5-6 London Road, Neath, on the condition that it be used to deliver substance misuse intervention services.
13. The property as approximately shown edged in Black on the attached copy plan was leased at a peppercorn rent to G4S to provide suitable accommodation from which to deliver substance misuse intervention services (see later).
14. The period of the lease was initially from 1st July 2008 to the 31st March 2011, and then further extended from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2017 since when the lease has been held over (i.e. occupation has continued under the terms of the previous lease) which now needs to be regularised by way of a new lease to run until the 31st March 2024 (subject to the ability to terminate on an annual basis).
15. The previous leases were granted to G4S who are commissioned by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) as the prime contractor for the Dyfodol consortium delivering the South Wales Offender Interventions Service. The Dyfodol consortium who deliver the South Wales Offender Interventions Service, has secured funding to continue delivering the service to the 31st March 2024.
16. As can be seen (below) from the services delivered at London Road, the building has now become more multi-use and is being used to deliver services that are commissioned by both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Substance Misuse Area Planning Board using SMAF. The Area Planning Board is the regional Board that has oversight for the commissioning, delivery and quality of substance misuse services funded via Welsh Government grant.
17. Consequently, the PCC has advised that it would be more pertinent for them to hold the lease, with the option to terminate annually in-line with funding.

18. However as G4S are still the prime contractor carrying out the service and are in sole occupation of the building, the new lease need to include provisions to allow PCC to sublet the premises to G4S.
19. A range of services are delivered from the premises, and include,
 - Offender Interventions, which is a triage, assessment, diversion, treatment and support service for 'offenders' in contact with the criminal justice system, including opiate substitution therapy.
 - Rapid Access Prescribing service – (RAPS) for society's most vulnerable people providing them with clinical interventions and specialist holistic support including opiate substitution therapy.
 - Other agencies e.g. Community Drug and Alcohol Team, also use the premises to see clients.
 - Integrated offender management (IOM) is based at the property, this allows local and partner agencies to co-ordinate the management of offenders.
 - Other services delivered at the building include sexual health, needle exchange, blood borne virus clinics and also a wound care clinic is due to start in the near future.
20. There are concerns regarding Anti-social behaviour in Neath Town centre; often exacerbated by substance misuse. It is not known whether the perpetrators of that ASB use the services at London Road.
21. As such, it is recognised that there could be community concerns regarding the continued use of this building, given the issues identified above.
22. However, providing treatment and support is key in reducing offending, reoffending and anti-social behaviour more generally. The focus of services provided at London Road is on stabilising individuals who present as very chaotic and likely to cause harm to the community and themselves.

23. The value of Drug Intervention Programmes in terms of reducing harms to those who misuse substances, their families and to the wider community is well established/evidenced.
24. It is evidenced that it is in everyone's interest (including interest of the whole community) to ensure that people who have committed criminal offences can access the support that they need to enable them to make changes to their lives and reduce the risk of offending, re-offending, or causing ASB. Supporting people to overcome their addictions more generally, as well as the underlying causes, would be a key part of their recovery, and preventing wider harms. The harms created by substance misuse would be exacerbated if such harm reduction services were not in place in this location.
25. As such it is important that the services provided at London Road are maintained.
26. Approval is therefore sought to seek authority for the Head of Property & Regeneration to negotiate a new lease of the premises on terms and conditions similar to those under the previous lease.
27. It is proposed that the new lease will run to the 31st March 2024 with the option to terminate annually in line with the funding situation.
28. This will enable the continued delivery of substance misuse intervention services at this property.

Financial Impacts:

29. There are no financial impacts associated with this report if the recommendation is approved. Although it should be noted that there are SMAF capital grant conditions restricting the occupation and use of the building for substance misuse services, and there would be claw-back if the use was discontinued within 10 years of the award.
30. SMAF capital of £130,674.13 was received in 2014-15 for works to the building. This grant condition is in force until 2024/25, with

potential clawback of up to £124,140.42 if the building ceases to be used to provide substance misuse services.

31. Welsh Government confirm that there is no set formula for determining the claw-back; the amount of claw back would be at an appropriate level of funding dependent on time remaining within the disposal period and with due regard to the specific circumstances that were faced.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

32. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
33. The first stage assessment, attached in the Appendices has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below.
34. The proposals contained in the report will have a positive impact on all those who are eligible/required to access the service, irrespective of their protected characteristics, if the delegated authority is granted and a lease subsequently entered into.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

35. No implications

Workforce Impacts:

36. No implications

Legal Impacts:

37. It should be noted that there are SMAF capital grant conditions restricting the occupation and use of the building for substance misuse services, as detailed above.

Risk Management Impacts:

38. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

39. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have “due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area

40. The extension of the lease, will enable the continuation of a substance misuse service which will support the prevention of a-c above.

41. There are concerns regarding Anti-social behaviour in Neath Town centre, exacerbated by substance misuse.

42. As highlighted above, providing treatment and support is key in reducing offending, reoffending and ASB more generally. The focus of services provided at London Road is on stabilising individuals who present as very chaotic and likely to cause harm to the community and themselves.

43. Key elements of this, is the work with the Police to provide an early intervention when someone is arrested where problematic substance use is a presenting factor and on release from prison where there are high risks of recidivism and self-poisoning which can be mitigated with ensuring continuity of clinical care and intensive casework support.

44. Rapid Access Prescribing service – (RAPS) is also delivered at the premises, for society’s most vulnerable people, providing them with

clinical interventions and specialist holistic support including opiate substitution therapy, to enable them to reduce the harms to themselves, their families and community more generally.

45. Integrated offender management (IOM) is based at the property, this allows local and partner agencies to co-ordinate the management of offenders. Police presence in the IOM Unit has reduced criminal activity within the area as the service were able to quickly deal with any concerns around dealing of drugs or antisocial behaviour around the building.
46. The services provided therefore aim to reduce the harms caused by substance misuse, and are consistent with the duties above.

Consultation:

47. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Recommendations

48. It is recommended that having due regard to the Integrated Impact Screening Assessment that the Head of Property & Regeneration in consultation with the Head of Education Development be granted delegated authority negotiate a lease with the PCC until 31st March 2024 with an option to terminate annually to enable the continued delivery of drug/substance misuse services.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

49. To regularise the existing use and occupation to both protect the Councils legal position and comply with grant conditions

Implementation of Decision

50. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period

Appendices

51. IIA

List of Background Papers

52. Copy plan

Officer Contact

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Impact Assessment - First Stage

It is essential that all initiatives undergo a first stage impact assessment to identify relevance to equalities and the Welsh language as well as an evaluation of how the proposal has taken into account the sustainable development principle (the five ways of working); an incorrect assessment could ultimately be open to legal challenge.

The first stage is to carry out a short assessment to help determine the need to undertake a more in-depth analysis (the second stage).

Relevance will depend not only on the number of people/service users affected, but also the significance of the effect on them.

When completing the first step you must have regard to the following:

- Does the initiative relate to an area where important equality issues have been, or are likely to be, raised? (For example, funding for services to assist people who are victims of rape/sexual violence or individuals with particular care need; disabled people's access to public transport; the gender pay gap; racist or homophobic bullying in schools)
- Is there a significant potential for reducing inequalities, or improving outcomes? (For example, increasing recruitment opportunities for disabled people).
- Does the initiative relate to instances where opportunities to use the Welsh language are likely to be affected or where the language is likely to be treated less favourably? (For example, increase the number of Welsh speakers moving from/to a certain area; closing specific Welsh language services or put those services at risk services;
- Does the initiative relate to the improvement of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being? To what extent does the initiative prevent things getting worse? (For example, funding for services to assist in cultural well-being; changes in policies that promote independence and/or assist carers)

1. Provide a description and summary of the initiative.

Identify which service area and directorate has responsibility for the initiative.

2. Identify who will be affected by the initiative.

If you answer **Yes** to service users, staff or wider community continue with the first stage of the assessment

If you answer **No** to service users, staff or wider community or **Yes** to 'Internal administrative process only', go to **Question 5 – sustainable development principle**.

3. Using relevant and appropriate information and data that is available to you think about what impact there could be on people who share protected characteristics; whether they are service users, staff or the wider community.

Some things to consider include:

- transport issues
- accessibility
- customer service
- cultural sensitivity
- financial implications
- loss of jobs

Definitions of impacts (either positive or negative):

- High – likely to be highly affected by the initiative
- Medium - likely to be affected in some way
- Low - likely to be affected by the initiative in a small way
- Don't know - the potential impact is unknown

You **must** provide reasons, and indicate what evidence you used, in coming to your decision.

4. Using relevant and appropriate information and data that is available, think about what impact there could be on opportunities to use the Welsh language and in treating the language no less favourably than English.

Definitions of impacts are the same as in **Question 3**.

The classification 'Don't Know' should be categorised as 'High Impact' in both questions 3 & 4.

5. Consider how the initiative has embraced the sustainable development principle in accordance with the Section 7c of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Give details of the initiative in relation to the 5 ways of working:

- **Long term** - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people
- **Integration** - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives
- **Involvement** - how people have been involved in developing the initiative
- **Collaboration** - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions;
- **Prevention** - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse

6. The most appropriate statement must be selected (and the relevant box ticked) based on the first stage of the assessment and an explanation of how you have arrived at this decision must be given.

In addition a summary of the how the initiative has embraced the sustainable development principle must also be included.

Where the first stage of the assessment indicates that a more in-depth analysis is required the second stage of the assessment will need to be completed and this will need to be started immediately.

A first stage assessment must be included as a background paper for all Cabinet/Cabinet Board/ Scrutiny Committee Reports.

Where the first stage assessment is completed by an accountable manager it must be signed off by a Head of Service/Director.

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. **Details of the initiative Lease of 5-6 London Road, Neath to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – continued on next page**

Initiative description and summary: Delegated authority is sought to the Head of Property and Regeneration to enter into negotiations for a new lease for the continued usage of the above property to deliver substance misuse services. Such a decision, as an internal function would not ordinarily require an IIA. However given the ongoing issues surrounding SB, linked to substance misuse in Neath Town Centre, it has been determined as being appropriate to undertake the assessment, on the basis of the provision of a substance misuse facility in respect of service users and the wider community. The decision sought is for delegated authority to the Head of Property & Regeneration to negotiate a lease but this IIA is done on the impact if the recommendation is approved (Continuation of services) or not approved (discontinuation of services).

This IIA reflects on current, and future service users, staff, and the wider community. As such it is quite detailed and complex

For clarity and to avoid repetition, it is useful to identify the main services delivered at the premises

- Dyfodol deliver Offender Interventions from the premises which is a triage, assessment, diversion, treatment and support service for 'offenders' in contact with the criminal justice system, including opiate substitution therapy.
- Dyfodol also deliver the Rapid Access Prescribing service – (RAPS) for society's most vulnerable people providing them with clinical interventions and specialist holistic support including opiate substitution therapy.
- Other agencies e.g. CDAT also use the premises to see clients.
- Integrated offender management (IOM) is based at Neath, this allows local and partner agencies to co-ordinate the management of offenders. (Probation originally moved in circa 2012 due to having no offices at Neath Port Talbot. A few years later, this increased to include police and what is known as the IOM Unit. The arrangement for IOM will continue indefinitely.
- Other services delivered at the building include sexual health, needle exchange, blood borne virus clinics and also a wound care clinic due to start in the near future.
- Jobcentre Plus hold surgeries at the building (pre Covid)- Neath one has been stopped during the pandemic but efforts are being made to return as has already happened at Dyfodol's building in Swansea.
- These service are only available to those over the age of 18; such services are available to those under 18 but are delivered by a different provider (Health) and are unlikely to be delivered from these premises.

The value of Drug Intervention Programmes in terms of reducing harms to those who use (now or in the future), their families (including children) and to the wider community is well established/evidenced.

Recent ONS data has shown that drug poisoning deaths decreased in all local authority areas with the exception of Wrexham, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot and Monmouthshire - The greatest proportional increase in drug poisoning deaths was Swansea Bay University Health Board (increase from 34 to 53 deaths in 2020)

The service provided have an impact for the various groups

Service Area: Partnership & Community Cohesion

Directorate: ELL- Partnership & Community Cohesion

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	/	
Staff		/
Wider community	/	
Internal administrative process only	/	

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
General						<p>The lease in question is in respect of a building in Neath town centre, out of which substance misuse services are delivered. If the lease is renewed there is no change and services will continue to be delivered.</p> <p>The negotiation of the lease is to enable future access to such services for those in need (e.g. rapid access proscribing of opiate substitutes) or are required to</p>

					<p>access substance misuse services under Offender Interventions.</p> <p>Some of the impacts are cross-cutting in respect of all or some characteristics, and to avoid repetition are highlighted here.</p> <p><i>Rationale for service</i> The main rationale for entering the services delivered is substance misuse, and not age. e.g. rapid access prescribing and in respect of offender interventions being required to as a result of sentencing condition/instead of a custodial sentence, i.e. Individuals who are on probation can voluntarily receive the service, or it can be a condition of their probation.</p> <p>Providing treatment and support to this particular cohort is key in reducing offending and reoffending. The focus is on stabilising individuals who present as very chaotic and likely to cause harm to the community and themselves. Key elements of this are the work with the Police to provide an early intervention when someone is arrested where problematic substance use is a presenting factor and on release from prison where there are high risks of recidivism and self-poisoning which can be mitigated with ensuring continuity of clinical care when on an OST prescription and intensive casework support.</p> <p>The services work with the Probation Service and Police on site and with the Courts ensures that those individuals have closer supports and supervision in the community.</p> <p><i>Crime, fear of crime, reducing offending/reoffending</i></p>
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					<p>The aim of this service is to support people to overcome and recover from additions to illegal substances, which will have been a key factor in the reason why some of those attending have engaged in criminal activity. Without this service that level of engagement in criminal activity is likely to either increase or remain the same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of the premises does sometimes attract negative publicity, and there can be a stigma associated with this building and its clientele, particularly given the criminal justice element of the services provided. • People travel from all over NPT to access the services, and people can congregate in the area/surrounding area, as well as access other services. • There have been reported incidents of drug dealing/taking happening near or around this building in the past; such activity is not tolerated. • There are concerns about ASB in Neath Town Centre fuelled by substance misuse/alcohol, and the negative impact this is having on inter alia the economic prosperity of the town, crime, and fear of crime. • SWP have noted that there is a small cohort of repeat offenders in terms of ASB, but whether these are people who use the services at London Road is not known. It is not known whether the service users of the facility in London Road are the protagonists of the ASB more generally either.
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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police presence in the IOM Unit has reduced criminal activity within the area as the service were able to quickly deal with any concerns around dealing of drugs or antisocial behaviour around the building. The arrangement for IOM will continue indefinitely. <p>It is evidenced that it is in everyone's interest (including interest of the whole community') to ensure that people who have committed criminal offences can access the support that they need to enable them to make changes to their lives and reduce the risk of re-offending. Supporting people to overcome their addictions, as well as the underlying causes, would be a key part of this, their recovery, etc. The harms created by substance misuse would be exacerbated if such harm reduction services were not in place in this location.</p> <p><i>Location, and co-location with other services</i></p> <p>The current location does allow for ease of access, being so close to the public transport. If it is easy to access, then more people are likely to remain engaged in their programme of treatment.</p> <p>Also, its proximity to other support agencies, means individuals can access support to address causal and consequential issues, including psychosocial support to address underlying issues.</p> <p>IOM is based at the premises and this has helped with people's rehabilitation by reducing the distance needed to travel appointments therefore improving compliance of</p>
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					<p>court orders.</p> <p>However as highlighted above, its location and colocation with other services, does bring service users into the town and the issues highlighted above including fear of crime/people's perceptions.</p> <p>There is currently no alternative for a location, so it could not be immediately relocated. To not renew the lease would therefore mean that this service could not continue to be provided.</p> <p>Negative impact if change of location – more costly to access if located outside of town/different town - this could be influenced by where service users live currently, and the public transport links</p> <p>Negative impact in terms of access to and on other services if lease not renewed. If the lease were renewed the impact would be positive as services already provided would be continued.</p> <p>If the lease is not renewed and the service is closed, it would have a negative impact on those already in receipt of services and future service users and their families, particularly if no alternative provision was enabled, or one that was close to other support agencies providing e.g. psycho-social interventions (psycho social interventions provided on site for offender management).</p> <p>There are currently 75 people engaged in Dyfodol services in Neath of which 45 are currently receiving clinical treatment. The current caseload of 75 include 17 people on an Alcohol Treatment Requirement, 13 people</p>
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						<p>on a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement and 45 people who have engaged voluntarily, accessing treatment through our arrest referral workers, probation or as prison leavers</p>
Age						<p>Having regard to AGE, it is noted that access to the services delivered at this property, is not based on need.</p> <p>The age of people using the service is known and all will be over 18.</p> <p>The following bullet points highlight the impacts, which are dealt with in more detail later</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The negotiation of the lease is to enable people already accessing the service to continue to do so e.g. receive treatment. • The service delivered is positive in respect of age for the people using the service now and in the future (over 18s) – e.g. helping overcoming addiction, and other health related issues, as well as other services such as jobcentre, sexual health. • If the lease were not renewed there would be a negative impact by age for service users (now and future) – current service users would be immediately adversely affected - lack of continuation of services for future service users • Likewise the impact is positive for any children/families of the persons receiving support,

						<p>and from a wider community perspective – accessing service reduces negative impacts on families, positive role models, less criminality + safer communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However consideration needs also to be given to the wider community in respect of the service continuing/not continuing. • It could be argued that the continuation of the service has a negative impact from a community perspective in terms of crime and fear of crime, but also a positive impact in terms of the reduction in crime as a result of interventions/police presence et al (this impact would be reversed if lease not renewed), which potentially are age-related. • Its location close to public transport and other services, has positive and negative impacts (easier for people who need help to access services if lease continues, the reverse if lease ends); also negative in terms of people's perceptions/crime/fear of crime (which could be age related), but positive in terms of reduction in crime as a result of interventions and police presence. • Negative impacts on the staff employed - (unemployment/redeployment associated impacts • The value of Drug Intervention Programmes, and helping people in their recovery and of reducing harms to those you use (now or in the future),
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					<p>their families (including children) and to the wider community is well established/evidenced.</p> <p>The following provides further detail</p> <p>Children & families The persons using the service now and in the future could have children, who would be negatively impacted if drug intervention services were not provided because of the lease not being renewed. The impact would be positive if the lease were renewed.</p> <p>Age of service users The age of the persons is over 18. If the lease is not renewed and the service is closed, it would have a negative impact on those who need/would be required to attend such services, particularly if no alternative provision was enabled or one that was close to other support agencies providing e.g. other interventions.</p> <p>A snapshot of information on Neath relating to last year shows caseload by age for Dyfodol service</p>
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						<div data-bbox="1243 95 1825 598"> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Caseload by Age</h3> <table border="1"> <caption>Caseload by Age Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Group</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18-25</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26-30</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31-40</td> <td>42%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>41-50</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>51-60</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p><i>Crime, fear of crime, reducing offending/reoffending</i> The harms created by substance misuse would be exacerbated if such harm reduction services were not in place in this location. Therefore the impact is positive if lease renewed and negative if not, for both service users and community.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the provision of such a service in the town centre (near to other support providers) is likely to have an understandable adverse impact on people's perceptions and fear of crime. It is assumed that this would impact more on our older and younger citizens.</p> <p>The over-all impact is designed to be positive in respect of those who use the service, their families and the wider community. Therefore the continuation of the lease (and therefore the services) would be positive having regard to age, and negative if the service was closed.</p>	Age Group	Percentage	18-25	7%	26-30	13%	31-40	42%	41-50	35%	51-60	3%
Age Group	Percentage																	
18-25	7%																	
26-30	13%																	
31-40	42%																	
41-50	35%																	
51-60	3%																	

Disability	/				<p>The access to the services delivered at the premises is determined by criteria as set out above and disability is not an accessing criteria; substance misuse is. The disability of service users would be recorded on Pal base (for offender interventions) and WICCIS for e.g. RAPS. This would be known.</p> <p>People with disability are accessing the services currently and will do so in the future.</p> <p>The over-all impact is designed to be positive in respect of those who currently access/are required to access substance misuse services, and therefore the continuation of the lease (and therefore the services) would be positive.</p> <p>However the impact would be negative in terms of disability if the lease were not be renewed There would be an immediate negative impact on people with disability if the lease were not renewed and the service closed. There would also be a negative impact in terms of future service users with disability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The links between substance misuse and mental health are well established/evidenced. It is recognised that drug intervention must also address mental health issues. Service users dealing with addiction often have mental health issues, services provided from this building work in partnership with the health board and other specialist mental health organisations to provide support to service users within the setting. The impact would be negative if
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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services delivered from the building are based on individual need and are delivered holistically taking into consideration a wide range of disabilities which include visual and hearing impairment. • Also people with accessibility and mobility issues are currently accessing the site. • People who inject drugs are especially at great risk of life threatening harms and disabilities, removing the service (by not extending lease) would have negative and life-changing consequences, for example PWID into the groin may have severe infections resulting in whole leg amputations. <p>The community as a whole has concerns around ASB in the town, and it can be assumed that people with disabilities are more adversely affected by the ASB, perceptions around the use of this building by this client group, crime and fear of crime. However it is recognised that the harm to society would be greater if drug intervention programmes like this did not exist.</p> <p>There is access for disabled users- it would be described as 'limited accessibility' which is restricted to the reception area toilet and basement areas- those with physical disability cannot go to all floors of the building as there is no lift. The basement can be accessed where there is an office where psychosocial intervention can be undertaken. The building accessibility could be improved. There is a hearing Loop installed and wide</p>
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						<p>access doors installed also.</p> <p>Someone with disability could use the service in the future- however we would welcome additional consideration in the future to ensure the site is as accessible as possible – this would be done via WG grand funding application in the future once the PCC holds the lease.</p>
Gender Reassignment	/					<p>It is possible that there are and this would be known by the services. It is recognised that there may be particular additional issues for those who have undergone/are undergoing gender reassignment, although services endeavour to deliver in a tailored way to meet needs</p> <p>It is anticipated that the lease and continuation of the services will have a positive impact for those that access/are required to access substance misuse services, who have undergone/are undergoing gender reassignment.</p> <p>Conversely if the lease is not renewed the impact would be negative</p>
Marriage/Civil Partnership	/					<p>The access to the services delivered at the premises is determined by criteria, and not limited by marriage/civil partnership - substance misuse is the entry requirement</p> <p>Some people accessing the services are likely to be married in civil partnerships, and it could be assumed that receiving support, et al would be positive to them and healthy relationships, if the lease were renewed, and negative if not.</p> <p>The over-all impact is designed to be positive in respect</p>

						of those who access/are required to access substance misuse services, and therefore the continuation of the lease (and therefore the services) would be positive regardless of marriage/civil partnership.
Pregnancy/Maternity	/					<p>There will be women seeking substance misuse services/required to access the services that will be pregnant or have children albeit that access to the service is not limited by this factor.</p> <p>The women who are pregnant would receive specialist support and referral to other specialist support e.g. health.</p> <p>The partners of males receiving/required to receive support, could be pregnant, and therefore stabilising their substance misuse/reducing harms, would be positive for their partners and families</p> <p>The continued availability of services at these premises will be positive in respect of pregnancy and maternity, and in terms of reducing harm, if the lease is renewed.</p> <p>However the impact would be negative if the lease did not continue and services ceased.</p>
Race						<p>Substance misuse affects people regardless of their age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender and marital status.</p> <p>The services delivered can cater for different cultures.</p>

						<p>Services delivered from the building based on individual need and are delivered holistically taking into consideration a wide range of characteristics to include religion, beliefs and culture.</p> <p>Services use translation lines and take into consideration cultural norms where family members may need to be involved in consultations and appointments.</p> <p>The service is delivered in line with Race Equality Act 2010 and ensures that BAME communities are encouraged and supported to access treatment.</p> <p>The service is committed to developing its support opportunities to BAME and work hard to ensure that any stigma associated with accessing services is minimised.</p> <p>Therefore the impact would be positive if the lease renewed (and service continued), and negative if lease not renewed in respect of people who use the services now and in the future.</p> <p>In terms of the wider community it is possible that the crime/fear of crime/perception is impacted in terms of race.</p>
Religion/Belief	/					<p>Substance misuse affects people regardless of their age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender and marital status.</p> <p>Services delivered from the building based on individual need and are delivered holistically taking into consideration a wide range of characteristics to include</p>

						<p>religion, beliefs and culture.</p> <p>Services use translation lines and take into consideration cultural norms where family members may need to be involved in consultations and appointments.</p> <p>Therefore the impact would be positive if the lease renewed (and service continued), and negative if lease not renewed in respect of people who use the services now and in the future.</p>
Sex	/					<p>Substance misuse affects people regardless of their age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender and marital status.</p> <p>The sex of the persons accessing the services will be known, and is recorded - it is relevant to note that more males than females currently access the service.</p> <p>A snapshot of people using Dyfodol services highlights that last year –</p>

					<p style="text-align: center;">Caseload by Gender</p> <p style="text-align: center;">■ Male ■ Female</p>  <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Gender</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Male</td><td>71%</td></tr><tr><td>Female</td><td>29%</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Recent figures from ONS highlight that more males than females have died as a result of drug poisonings.</p> <p>Sexual health services are also delivered from the premises, so there would be an immediate negative impact if the lease were not renewed.</p> <p>It is possible that persons receiving support at the services are sex workers, and victims of sexual exploitation. The absence of support services would put people at risk of entering sex work/at risk of sexual exploitation.</p> <p>There would be an immediate negative impact if the lease were not renewed and the service was required to close. The impact would be positive if the lease renewed and services continued</p>	Gender	Percentage	Male	71%	Female	29%
Gender	Percentage										
Male	71%										
Female	29%										

Sexual orientation	/					Substance misuse affects people regardless of their age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender and marital status.

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		/				It is part of the Offender Intervention Contract the Dyfodol Consortium are required to meet the requirements of Welsh Language Standards
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		/				It is part of the Offender Intervention Contract the Dyfodol Consortium are required to meet the requirements of Welsh Language Standards

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5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		/	/			It is not expected that the strategy will have any adverse effect on biodiversity or Eco-system resilience.

To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		/	/			It is not expected that the strategy will have any adverse effect on biodiversity or Eco-system resilience.
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6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	/		<p>Yes, in so far as, giving delegated authority to negotiate the continuation of the lease enables a long-standing service to be continued to be delivered from its location.</p> <p>This building was renovated using funding from Welsh Government, which has long term conditions to ensure that the building continues to be used for substance misuse or claw-back would apply.</p> <p>The funding cycle for the revenue for some of the services is annual, and this could be seen as contradictory to the view that this is a long-term project. This is a product of how WG budgets work and not reflective of the long term policy intent. There is no plans to disinvest</p> <p>The benefits to the people who use the services delivered is long-term, as are the benefits to the families and the wider community</p> <p>The continuation of the service will enable people to access services should they need to/are required to. It is in the longer term interests to have treatment services for people with substance misuse issues</p> <p>The Area Planning Board is currently working on a transformation project in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to</p>

			<p>develop a fully integrated substance misuse service model.</p> <p>Any assets that currently exist to deliver services in NPT and Swansea will form part of the consideration for the new whole service going forward.</p> <p>Funding streams from all partners will be utilised to fund the new service.</p>
<p>Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives</p>	/		<p>This is a longstanding project, delivered out of a building owned by the Council but renovated using WG funding and occupied by Dyfodol, who deliver criminal justice misuse services. The building has now become more multi-use and is being used to deliver services that are commissioned by both the PCC and the Area Planning Board (using substance misuse action fund) that are delivered by G4s. Other services and agencies also see clients at the building including the Health Board. IOM is also at the building. Its location close to other services, means that there is strong working relationships with those services/agencies.</p> <p>The service provided out of London Road supports the Council's well-being objectives - impacts primarily in relation to wellbeing objective 2 – adults but also potential indirect impacts for children.</p>
<p>Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative</p>	/		<p>The original bid was put together by a range of organisations and the use of the building has continued. Partner agencies use the building.</p>
<p>Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions</p>	/		<p>This is a longstanding project, delivered out of a building owned by the Council but renovated using WG funding and occupied by Dyfodol, who deliver criminal justice misuse services. The building has now become more multi-use and is being used to deliver services that are commissioned by both the PCC and the Area Planning Board (using SMAF) that are delivered by G4s. Other services and agencies also see clients at the building. The APB is embarking on a transformation journey to take a holistic or whole life approach to the delivery of substance misuse services, dependent on a person's needs and not whether they are in the criminal justice or health treatment, etc. systems.</p>

<p>Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse</p>	/		<p>In so far as the authority to negotiate a lease could allow the continuation of existing services which endeavour to provide support for people with substance misuse issues. Stabilisation of these issues, harm reduction techniques are part of the prevention spectrum.</p> <p>The aim of the service is to prevent harms to the people who use the service and to the wider community.</p> <p>South Wales Police are based at the building and work in partnership with Dyfodol to deliver services. The police presence at the building has meant that there has been less criminal activities taking place outside or near to the building, which is located in the Town Centre. The presence is acting as a deterrent. In the interest of the whole community to ensure that people who have committed criminal offences can access the support that they need to enable them to make changes to their lives and reduce the risk of re-offending. Supporting people to overcome their addictions, as well as the underlying causes, would be a key part of the service that is delivered from this building.</p>
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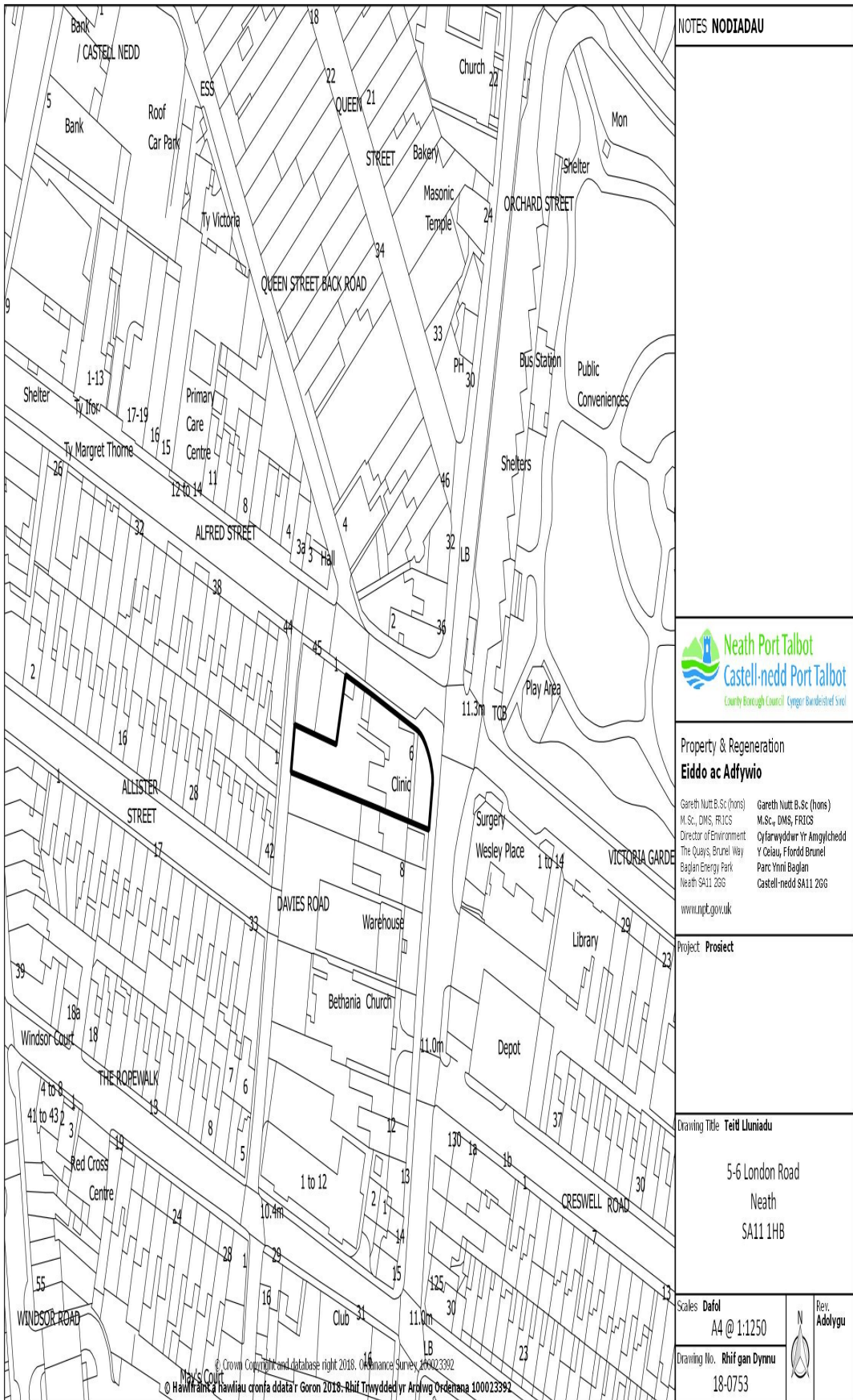
7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	/
Reasons for this conclusion	
The proposals contained in the report will have a positive impact on all those who are eligible/required to access the service, irrespective of their protected characteristics, if the delegated authority is granted and a lease subsequently entered into.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

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	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Claire Jones	Strategic Manager Partnerships & Community Cohesion	SCJones	02/09/20
Signed off by	Chris Millis	Head of Education Development	C Millis	02/09/20



NOTES NODIADAU

Blank area for notes.



**Property & Regeneration
Eiddo ac Adfywio**

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Project Proiect

Drawing Title: Teitl Lluniadu

5-6 London Road
Neath
SA11 1HB

Scales Dafol A4 @ 1:1250		Rev. Adolygu
Drawing No. Rhif gan Dyrnu 18-0753		

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

17/09/2021

Report of the Head of Education & Development – Chris Millis

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All Rural Wards of Neath Port Talbot:

1. Aberdulais
2. Blaengwrach
3. Bryn & Cwmavon
4. Brynamman (Lower)
5. Bryncoch North
6. Coedffranc West
7. Crynant
8. Cwmllynfell
9. Cymmer
10. Dyffryn
11. Glynorrwg

12. Glynneath
13. Godrergraig
14. Gwaun Cae Gurwen
15. Gwynfi
16. Margam
17. Onllwyn
18. Pelenna
19. Pontardawe
20. Resolven
21. Rhos
22. Seven Sisters
23. Taibach
24. Ystalyfera

Rural Development Plan 2014 - 2020

Purpose of the Report:

To update Members and to give an overview of the Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 and describe what has been achieved in Neath Port Talbot during the current Programme.

Executive Summary:

The Rural Community Development team manages delivery of the Welsh Government and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) funded LEADER scheme and the former Rural Community Development Scheme (RCDF), and ensures that

the Authority meets duties in relation to the compliance, administration and promotion of the schemes.

Since the LEADER Programme began in July 2015 Regenerate NPT has made great strides towards the achievement of targets outlined in our Local Development Strategy (LDS), supporting the growth of our rural areas through a host of innovative and community led projects.

To date, 33 projects have been allocated funding, and over 4849 participants from across rural Neath Port Talbot have been supported.

The LEADER funding secured by NPT is £2,156,000. The running and animation costs for the programme are under 25% of the total RDP funds available in NPT.

Through a re-profiling exercise we have been able to extend the LEADER project from December 2021 to March 22, utilising previous underspend.

UK Government future funding for a successor programme to EU funded 'LEADER' programme activities is not confirmed.

Background:

LEADER

LEADER funding can be used to fund innovative new projects that are primarily focussed in rural wards. There are five key themes that all prospective projects must fit under:

- Adding Value to Local Identity and natural and cultural resources
- Facilitating pre-commercial development and short supply chains
- Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services

- Renewable energy at community level
- Exploitation of digital technology

In order to be able to draw down funding, each area has set up a decision-making body called a Local Action Group (LAG). In Neath Port Talbot the LAG is called 'Regenerate NPT' and is currently made up of 18 members from the Public, Private, and Third sectors. Membership reflects both the area's geographical extent and its sectoral composition. Members must live in or work in the area of benefit, namely the rural wards of Neath Port Talbot. Organisations working across the area but located outside it may also join Regenerate NPT.

The LAG meet quarterly as a minimum, and it is their responsibility to take an active role in championing the LEADER programme, using their networks to raise awareness and encourage diverse and innovative applications. LAG members are responsible for objectively and robustly appraising and scoring each funding application.

The administration of the programme on behalf of the LAG is carried out by the Rural Community Development team. This team is made up of 4 members of staff, all of whom are fully funded by the scheme. As well as administering the LAG, they are responsible for promoting the Programme, engaging prospective applicants, supporting current projects, carrying out research studies identified by the LAG, monitoring projects and reporting on outcomes, and dealing with financial claims both from applicants, and to Welsh Government.

Funding

In May 2015, following the submission of the Local Development Strategy, the Local Authority were successful in applying for £2,156,000 of LEADER funding. The new Programme officially started on 1st July 2015 and will run until 31st March 2022.

Achieving value for money is fundamental to the LAG's approach, to maximise benefit for the community. To support this, when invited to

re-profile in June 2020 a request was made to increase the value allocated to projects in NPT, and extend the LEADER programme by 3 months to March 22. This was achieved by moving funds to utilise underspend, to increase available funds to support more/new projects, post COVID 19 recovery. This increase acknowledged a reduction in staff costs and less travel than anticipated due to 'lockdown restrictions' and is an example of how the LAG and Rural Community Development team are working to ensure the best use of available funds.

LEADER projects are funded on a minimum 80/20 basis whereby applicants must have secured at least 20% of the total project cost in order to apply for up to 80%.

Since the previous report in July 2020 the LAG has approved 14 new projects, taking the total projects to date to 33. Two of the 33 projects are 'Co-operation' projects working across Wales RDP regions to deliver specific projects e.g. the most recently approved Co-operation project is '*Prescribing Woodlands for Wellbeing*' delivered by Coed Lleol (Small Woods Association).

To date, total project costs committed to the 33 projects is £1,307,685 (80% RDP & 20% Match).

Welsh Government has announced it will be launching a successor RDP programme post Brexit in 2024, with a value of £106 million pounds. However, to date the allocated spend does not include LEADER. RDP teams across Wales are lobbying for a review of the announced spending package.

The Shared prosperity & Levelling up fund expected to launch in 2022 is being published in autumn 2021 and may hold opportunities for NPT to continue to support 'LEADER' activity in the interim period, with direct funds from UK replacing EU funds.

Progress to date

It is a requirement to report to Welsh Government on a number of Key Performance Indicators. Projects are continually monitored by the Rural Community Development team to ensure that sufficient progress is being made. To date projects are making excellent progress and performance is on track to meet WG targets.

Of the 9 WG targets, 6 have already been exceeded e.g. 4869 participants have been supported to learn new skills, attend events, take part in volunteering opportunities and enrol for formal training opportunities (exceeding the target of 2200 by 221%).

1075 stakeholders have been engaged by our projects to ensure that the work that is being implemented through the Programme synergises with other schemes, has an impact, and that the benefits are widely shared.

Indicator targets and achievements to date-

Indicator Name	Final Target Amount	Achieved & evidenced to date
R.24 - Jobs Created through Supported projects (LEADER)	7	6
LD-CL.001 - Number of Feasibility Studies	11	6
LD-CL.002 - Number of Networks Established	10	6
LD-CL.003 - Number of Jobs Safeguarded through Support Projects	3	4.8
LD-CL.004 - Number of Pilot Activities undertaken/supported	14	14
LD-CL.005 - Number of Community Hubs	8	18
LD-CL.006 - Number of Information Dissemination Actions	300	540
LD-CL.007 - Number of Stakeholders	740	1075
LD-CL.008 - Number of Participants Supported	2200	4869

Following on from our Mid-Term Evaluation in 2020, the LAG have supported a revised strategy to underpin our work which better reflected the changed context in which are working and lessons learned along the way. The application process has been streamlined and a smaller grant application introduced has proved successful, attracting applications that were previously deterred by a time consuming bureaucratic process for the value requested.

In 2020-2021 the team has increased promotion and publicity activities and hosted a number workshop and engagement activities to promote LEADER funding to ensure we could respond to, and support changing needs in NPT's rural communities.

This exercise has enabled us to update the 2014-2017 Local Development Strategy (LDS) to be more reflective of the current landscape in which there has been unprecedented changes e.g. Brexit and pandemic impact. The updated LDS now contains a broadened scope of projects and aligns with the most recent local strategic policies e.g. NPT Well-being Plan 2018-2023, corporate plan 'Shaping NPT' 2019-2022, 2019s declaration of a Climate Emergency.

Case studies and reports have been introduced to share success, lessons learned and to provide an ongoing update of, project achievement, delivery, and the impact the project has had on the communities. A number of NPT case studies have been featured in Welsh Government (WG) 'Wales Rural Network' newsletters e.g. in June's 2021 edition 6 NPT projects were featured.

https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/news-events-and-case-studies/case_study?page=0

NPT also features in WGs first Sharing Success 'Celebrating Rural' newsletter in August 2021 demonstrating a small sample of the support that LEADER has provided in rural areas and the difference it has, and continues to make to Rural Communities.

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information purposes.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

There are no Valleys Communities implications associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts:

There are no Workforce implications associated with this report.

Legal Impacts:

There no Legal implications associated with this report.

Risk Management Impacts:

There are no Risk Management implications associated with this report.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

For information

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

N/A

Implementation of Decision:

N/A

Appendices:

Leader Project NPT – update

List of Background Papers:

N/A

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Regenerate NPT: 2014 - 2021



The Rural Development Programme

is the mechanism by which the Welsh Government delivers LEADER funding to support our countryside and rural communities. In Neath Port Talbot the following projects and feasibility studies have been approved by the Local Action Group (LAG):



PROJECT: Cognition
Timescale: February
To encourage
contributions via
locations, towards the
Ponds and Afan Forest
Volunteers Group, to

PROJECT: Growing Healthy Together, NPTCVS
Timescale: July 2016 to November 2017

To build up an interest in community growing, volunteering and locally produced food, enabling local people to develop skills through friendly workshops and training held at Rheola Walled Garden in Glynneath and at the DOVE Workshop in Banwen.



PROJECT: Cognition Bike Give Sustain,
2016 to June 2019

mountain bikers and walkers to make donation boxes based at various upkeep of bike tracks at Glynccorwg Park and to establish the Afan Trail maintain the tracks.

PROJECT: Go for IT, Age Connects NPT



Timescale: July 2016
Employing a Tourism
businesses in our
as an attractive and
West Wales by

Timescale: May 2016 to April 2019

Free classes to support adults aged 50+ get to grips with modern technology like mobile phones and computers. With help for those wanting to access information on-line, internet banking, social media, shopping and personal interest sites – like looking for and booking holidays!



PROJECT: Tourism Development in NPT, NPTCBC

to December 2019

Development Officer to help tourism rural wards promote Neath Port Talbot convenient base for a visit to South working with them to develop their aspirations and understanding of visitor requirements.



PROJECT: Working with Nature, NPTCBC

Timescale: August 2016 to March 2021

Run by the Countryside & Wildlife Team, to build up a bank of volunteers and community groups to take a more active role in the management of our local, natural greenspaces, whilst fostering a greater understanding and connection with the natural environment.

Timescale: July 2016 to March 2020

Digitalising the museum’s collection of historical artefacts and training volunteers to pass their knowledge of the coal industry’s part in the culture of the Afan Valley, on to visitors.



Service with a programme of for young people

PROJECT: Glantawe Arena Partnership
Timescale:
To provide outdoor

PROJECT: Promoting Public Transport to the Countryside, BayTrans

Timescale: February 2016 to September 2018

To encourage visitors to Neath Port Talbot valleys using public transport by mapping the attractions, activities and walks in our rural wards that are all accessible by bus.

PROJECT: The Engagement Retreat, Whitehead-Ross Consulting

Timescale: March 2016 to February 2018



Designed to add value to existing Youth provision in Neath Port Talbot’s rural wards, exhilarating outdoor pursuits and activities aged 14-18.

Outdoor Education Academy, Pontardawe

September 2016 to September 2019
educational programmes for disengaged



generation, energy transport.

PROJECT: Egni Rural,
Timescale: June 2019 to
To secure leases for
across NPT by carrying

young people whilst giving them opportunities to achieve nationally recognised qualifications and to become skilled and confident by providing training in a non-school setting within the 25 acre Glantawe Riverside Park in Pontardawe.

PROJECT: Energy Local, Awel Aman Tawe

Timescale: June 2018 to June 2020

To employ an Energy Local Development Officer to promote sustainable and efficient measures to communities in NPT and communicate the advantages of low carbon, decentralised, locally owned efficiency and electrified heat and



Egni Co-op
March 2020
solar panels on community buildings
out structural surveys and ensuring

grid connection at each site. These buildings and their users will benefit from cheaper electricity and the project will significantly reduce carbon emissions.



PROJECT: Solar and Battery, Awel Aman Tawe

Timescale: June 2019 to August 2021

To secure planning for a 2.2MW ground mounted solar farm, and a 5MW battery

storage facility on Mynydd y Gwrhyd located next to the two existing Awel Co-op wind turbines. Funding covered legal support to secure leases on the common land and farm where the solar is located and the planning application fee.

PROJECT: Mess Up The Mess, “Amplify: Trowch e Lan”

Timescale: August 2019 to September 2020

Working in partnership with Pontardawe Arts Centre, this Theatre Company delivered a package of activities targeted to engage local young people in creating, managing and delivering events.



they had direct
able to experience

PROJECT: Caring at

Timescale:

Providing gift bags to have engaged with The bags included well as donated food also gave the volunteers to drop by



at 4 schools during lunchtimes to ensure access to a play professional and would be good value play sessions.

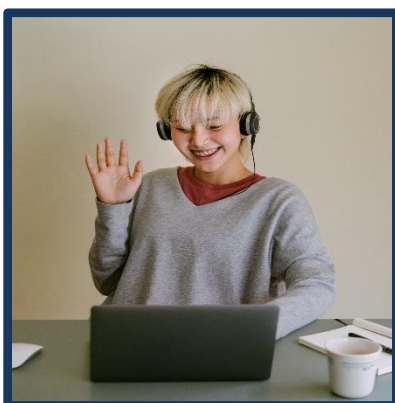
Christmas, Age Connects NPT

Throughout December 2020

elderly residents that Age Connects NPT since the start of the Covid19 pandemic. cards and gifts from local school children as and gifts from other community groups. It organisation a last opportunity for their

and carry out wellbeing checks on residents

spending Christmas alone.



supportive
youth workers.

PROJECT: Clwb ieuencid iaith Gymraeg/Welsh Language Youth Club, Neath Port Talbot Council Youth Service

Timescale: June 2021 to December 2021

To pilot a ‘virtual’ youth club through the medium of Welsh and provide opportunities for young people to improve their Welsh language skills through activities which will help them with team building, problem solving and personal development (with an added option of gaining formal qualifications) in a safe and environment, staffed by qualified

PROJECT: Return to

Timescale: April 2021

Funding for works to



Play, Bryn Rovers AFC

to August 2021

be carried out to the pitch area to

ensure the safety of players and spectators in terms of social distancing measures due to Covid19 restrictions.



fungi, bats

PROJECT: Crynant Community Forest ‘Exploring the Crynant Community Council

Timescale: June 2021 to December 2021

Enabling local residents to learn about, and experience, wildlife and nature. They will have the opportunity to participate in activities and learn about supporting the biodiversity of the forest through taking part in surveying and learning about birds, plants, and other mammals.



education centre.

PROJECT: Hwb Y Gors, Awel Aman Tawe

Timescale: June 2021 to December 2021

Employing an Engagement Officer to take forward the development of the Hwb Y Gors centre, Cwmgors into a low carbon social enterprise, arts and

PROJECT: Community Food Pontardawe Arena

Timescale: April 2021 to Increasing well-being community to discover the grow their own produce. adults and young people where



Growing Pilot, Partnership

December 2021

through supporting the benefits, and develop the skills, to Provision will be open to both early intervention programmes for schools will include horticultural and energy efficiency principles.



PROJECT: Crynant Volunteer & Support Programme, Crynant Community Association

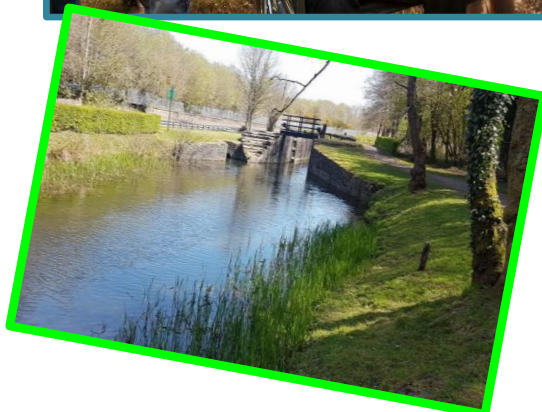
Timescale: July 2021 to December 2021

To kick-start a structured community volunteer programme by employing a Volunteer Development Officer who would be appropriately trained (paid for by LEADER) and solely invested in raising the profile of a volunteer programme in order to adequately serve the elderly and vulnerable residents and also engage with the young people in the village of Crynant.

PROJECT: Neath Canal Biodiversity Trail, Ty Banc Canal Group

Timescale: July 2021 to December 2021

To increase education around biodiversity, QR codes placed along canal pathway mooring posts from Resolven to



Glynneath encouraging children to engage with educational quizzes woven into stories of wildlife characters.



This town

will

Upper Neath

PROJECT: Upper Neath Valley Development Project Funding Officer Pilot, Glynneath Town Council

Timescale: July 2021 to December 2021

project brings together four rural community councils who have formed a Cluster to employ a Development Officer whose aim will be to explore grant funding opportunities that benefit all four communities based in the Valley.

PROJECT: Cook
Neath Port

Timescale:

To teach young people a 10 week on-line programme to prepare and cook affordable nutritious meals for themselves and their families as part of a healthier lifestyle.



Slow Learn Fast,

Talbot Council Youth Service

September 2021 to December 2021

people basic, practical cooking skills over programme, empowering them to plan, prepare and cook

COOPERATION Projects whereby Local Action Groups from different regions can work together to provide opportunities to improve the potential for overcoming challenges for people in Wales, UK or Europe.



PROJECT: Shared Visions for Common Land, European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism

Timescale: October 2020 to October 2021

Swansea LAG leading the project, partnered with Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, NPT, Merthyr Tydfil, RCT, Powys and Torfaen. To ensure that commoners and other stakeholders involved in common lands, have the best possible advantages in terms of capacity to engage with policy around Government legislation.



PROJECT: Prescribing Woodlands for Wellbeing:

Coed Lleol (Small Woods Association)

Timescale: April 2021 to December 2021

Ceredigion LAG leading the project, partnered with NPT and Cwm Tâf (Merthyr & RCT), bringing together organisations working in the field of outdoor nature-based health, with health care providers interested in green social prescribing, and to pilot the development of new digital resource as a tool for sharing experiences and learning, over geographical distance and in

times of isolation or lockdown.

a combination of staff time and consultancy costs to undertake background research for a specific problem or issue.



PROJECT: Developing Neath Abbey Ironworks, Friends of NAIW

Timescale: April 2018 to June 2019

An investigation into the feasibility of conserving the Ironworks through structural repairs, with the possibility of eventually opening up the site to the public to encourage visitors to the area, and increase community knowledge through research and sharing of information on this relatively unknown site of major historical interest and importance.



PROJECT: Transport, NPTCVS

Timescale: December 2017 to September 2018

On behalf of the Neath Port Talbot Transport Sub-Group to explore alternative transport models and provide a costed options appraisal for alternative ways of providing transport to meet the needs of our rural communities so that residents can access the opportunities they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives.



PROJECT: Green Business, NPTC, Countryside & Wildlife Team

Timescale: February 2016 April 2017

Exploring new approach to delivering the biodiversity requirement of building and construction developments, to redress the on-going decline in biodiversity in NPT and the delays to the planning and development process that can result from such issues. An ecological consultant was appointed to develop this new approach and to identify a number of potential compensation sites that might be used to offset the biodiversity losses or impacts that occur due to a development.



PROJECT: Renewable Energy Storage, Awel Aman Tawe

Timescale: April 2018 to December 2018

To tackle climate change and engage people in renewable energy: investigate a solar farm installation alongside the existing 4.7MW wind farm (sharing its existing grid connection), a 9MW wind farm extension to the existing site and battery storage to store excess power from the solar and/or wind extension site.



PROJECT: From Black to Green, Seven Sisters RFC

Timescale: March 2018 to September 2018

To explore the creation of a community hub as part of the club, focussing on health, wellbeing, education and tackling poverty. To research the feasibility of creating a modern community facility which could offer a range of services and activities, including a café, gym, meeting rooms that might draw in existing professionals from various health and wellbeing services.



PROJECT: Sarn Helen Care & Support Service, DOVE Workshops, Banwen

Timescale: July 2021 to August 2021

To explore the formulation of a local support service for vulnerable and elderly people who find it difficult to secure help at home. The idea would be to run a co-operative of skilled local workers and to train them in safeguarding issues and provide a hub to support them to market their services, have access to training and to manage a booking and payment system.



PROJECT: To explore an accessible and sustainable future for Ffynnon Capel Mair and its ancient well at Margam Park, Friends of Margam Park

Timescale: August 2021 to December 21

The future of this small 14th Century church and the recently discovered well is in danger. The study will identify how the site can be developed by exploring conservation through an educationally centred proposal around the site's heritage and cultural importance.

Supported by the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme, which is financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government



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Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

Immediately following Scrutiny Committees starting at 10am

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Type	Contact Officer
22 October 2021	Local Development Plan (LDP) Annual Monitoring Report	Information	Ceri Morris / Catherine Rylands
	Local Air Quality Management – progress report	Information	Ceri Morris / Mark Thomas
	2021/22 Quarterly Performance – Quarter 1	Monitor	Simon Brennan / Ceri Morris
3 December 2021	Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2021-2036 Delivery Agreement – Submission Version	Decision	Ceri Morris / Lana Beynon/ Anjuli Davies
	Active Travel – Post Consultation Report	Decision	Ceri Morris / Lana Beynon
	2021/22 Quarterly Performance – Quarter 2	Monitor	Simon Brennan / Ceri Morris
14 January 2022			

4 March 2022	2021/22 Quarterly Performance – Quarter 3	Monitor	Simon Brennan / Ceri Morris
8 April 2022			